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## Chilly Reading

The CIA report made public yesterday in Washington will not attract anything like the public attention that greeted the visibly orbiting Russian satellite, naturally; yet as grounds for earnest comparison and unhappy speculation, the CIA's summary of Soviet capabilities and determinations goes far beyond the satellite in some respects. It shows the Russians excelling us in certain peacetime categories, as well as military: even in the ubiquitous television receiver, "their components are superior to those of our sets. Actual picture performance is better in Russian sets. . . ." Americans have long translated the quantity and quality of their consumer goods, under all headings, into a superior standard of living and in turn a superior way of life; the CIA report shows another people making greater strides simply by putting their mind to it while we sit back and relax in our specious comfort.

When it comes to the inferiority of American equipment for the peacetime I.C.V. effort in the Antarctic, excuse may be found in the Russians' long preoccupation with cold-zone studies in their own lands. It may be that publication of the CIA report will be thought of in some quarters as an effort to prove that American intelligence was not, after all, taken unawares by the launching of Sputnik. But there is no dismissing or gainsaying, the growing Russian lead in scientific manpower which the report enumerates and discusses.

The best that can be said is that Americans perhaps now have had most of the bad news made known to them. The report's shock effect should have worn off by the start of the President's speech series November 13 in Oklahoma City. It should be possible, accordingly, for the nation to receive his appraisal and outlook calmly, and to form its own determination soberly to do some hard work in years ahead.